



USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service

Indiana Crop & Weather Report

USDA, NASS, Indiana Field Office
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Vol. 56, No. 26

CROP REPORT FOR WEEK ENDING JUNE 25

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY

The state experienced scattered thunderstorms during the week with some reports of hail and wind damage to crops and buildings, according to the Indiana Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Farmers continued to spray corn and soybean fields for weeds. The first cutting of hay is nearly complete with some operations just beginning the second cutting. Winter wheat harvest is gaining momentum and moving northward. A limited amount of disease problems have been reported in the wheat.

FIELD CROPS REPORT

There were 4.1 days suitable for field work. Ninety-nine percent of the corn acreage has emerged compared to 100 percent last year and 99 percent for the 5-year average. Ninety-seven percent of the soybean acreage is planted compared to 100 percent for last year and 97 percent for the 5-year average. By area, 100 percent of the soybean acreage is planted in the north, 98 percent in the central, and 90 percent in the south. Ninety-three percent of the soybean acreage has emerged compared to 99 percent last year and 94 percent for the 5-year average.

Harvest of winter wheat is 24 percent complete compared to 26 percent last year and 30 percent for the 5-year average. Winter wheat condition is rated 78 percent good to excellent compared to 66 percent last year.

Major activities during the week included: spraying chemicals, preparing equipment for wheat harvest, side dressing corn, scouting fields for insects, cutting and baling hay, and mowing roadsides and ditches.

LIVESTOCK, PASTURE AND RANGE REPORT

Pasture condition is rated 14 percent excellent, 70 percent good, 14 percent fair and 2 percent poor. Livestock are in mostly good condition with adequate pasture.

CROP PROGRESS TABLE

Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg
Percent				
Corn Emerged	99	98	100	99
Soybeans Planted	97	95	100	97
Soybeans Emerged	93	87	99	94
Winter Wheat Harvested	24	14	26	30
Alfalfa First Cutting	91	86	100	94

CROP CONDITION TABLE

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Corn	2	10	31	47	10
Soybeans	2	8	31	52	7
Winter Wheat	1	4	17	56	22
Pasture	0	2	14	70	14

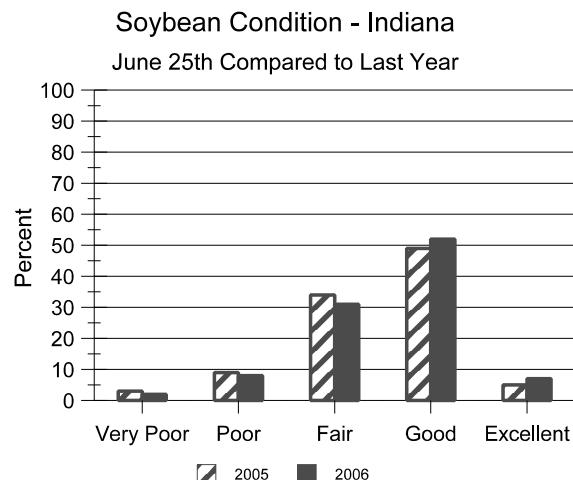
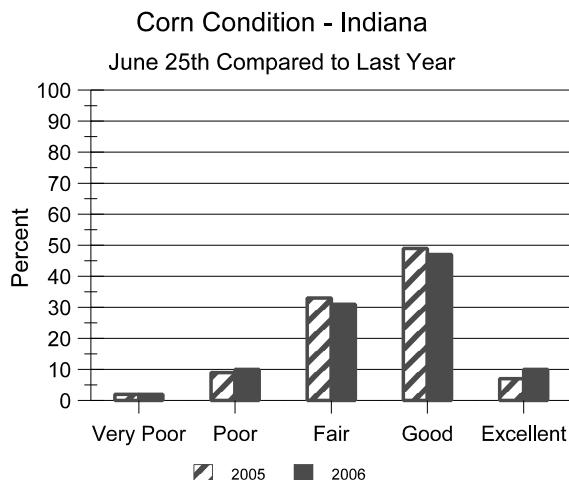
SOIL MOISTURE & DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK TABLE

	This Week	Last Week	Last Year
Percent			
Topsoil			
Very Short	1	1	16
Short	9	8	49
Adequate	64	73	35
Surplus	26	18	0
Subsoil			
Very Short	1	1	8
Short	6	4	38
Adequate	72	75	53
Surplus	21	20	1
Days Suitable	4.1	5.4	6.9

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Crop Progress



Other Agricultural Comments And News

Wheat Head Scab

- Head blight of wheat is out there, but still not severe

The weather-based predictive model for wheat head scab (referred to in earlier issues of Pest & Crop, and available at <http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/>) has consistently predicted a low risk of the disease for Indiana. However, head blight is evident in many areas of the state. This does not necessarily mean the model has failed to do its job. The model predicts risk for a "severe" epidemic, which is defined as a severity of 10% or greater. There are two components to severity of head blight: the percentage of heads in a field that are blighted, and the average amount of blight on those heads. A blighted head may range from a single white spikelet to a totally white head. Severity integrates these two components to estimate the total amount of damage based on visual blight symptoms. A head that is totally blighted will presumably produce little if any sound grain, whereas a head with only a little blight may produce some scabby kernels, but otherwise sound grain.

We are seeing head blight in wheat variety trials around the state, but at low incidence. For example, in the variety trial at SEPAC (Jennings County), incidence ranged from 0.3 to 2%. At the Davis Purdue Ag Center, incidence was even lower. The most severely affected variety had only 0.6% of the heads affected. The greatest incidence of blight we have so far seen is in the trial near campus (Tippecanoe County), where incidence ranges from 4 to 13%. Even at this location, when the amount of blight per head is taken into account, severity on all varieties is still below the 10% threshold. We will evaluate head blight at Davis a second time on Friday, and evaluate head blight at Pinney-Purdue on Thursday.

It's easy to overestimate the severity of head blight. When healthy heads are still green, blighted heads stand out conspicuously and give the impression that they are much more numerous than they really are. The most accurate way to measure incidence is to count blighted heads in arbitrarily chosen 1- or 2-ft lengths of row in several areas of a field or plot. A reasonable estimate of incidence can be made visually. In a good stand of wheat there will be 35 to 45 heads per foot of row. Look at short intervals of row, instead of over a broad area, and count the blighted heads. Divide this number by 40 (or whatever seems a reasonable number of heads per foot) to calculate percent incidence.

This year may be somewhat a repetition of 2004. The model, for the 7-day period ending just as wheat began flowering throughout the state in 2004, predicted low risk, because it had been dry. However, once wheat started to flower, it became wetter and more humid. Evidently this allowed the head blight fungus to produce spores on corn stubble, which then infected wheat during early grain filling. So far, it does not appear that severity is as great as it was in many fields in 2004.

Due to relatively cool conditions across Indiana in May and June, the winter wheat grain fill period has been moderately extended. This will likely lead to increased kernel size at harvest. Since scab infested kernels are smaller and lighter than uninfected kernels, growers may be able to remove some of the scabby kernels by simply turning up the air on the combine and blowing them out the back. Since there can be dramatic differences in kernel size between varieties it is critical that growers check combine settings from field to field. When inspecting the ground for loss, scab infested kernels will appear shrunken and shriveled and may have a pinkish hue to them.

(Continued on Page 4)

Weather Information Table

Week ending Sunday June 25, 2006

Station	Past Week Weather Summary Data										Accumulation					
	Air					Precip.					Avg 4 in	April 1, 2006 thru June 25, 2006		GDD Base 50°F		
	Temperature			Precip.	Avg	Days	Soil	Total	DFN	Days		Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN
	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Temp	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	
Northwest (1)																
Chalmers_5W	92	55	74	+2	1.21	2		12.58	+1.91	30	961	-55				
Francesville	91	56	73	+3	0.65	3		11.64	+0.96	33	933	+20				
Valparaiso_AP_I	92	52	72	+2	0.43	2		6.13	-5.21	25	968	+90				
Wanatah	93	46	71	+1	0.37	4	77	8.20	-2.50	28	854	+29				
Winamac	90	56	73	+3	0.46	2	75	10.05	-0.63	26	939	+26				
North Central (2)																
Plymouth	91	53	72	+0	0.54	3		9.29	-1.86	32	861	-93				
South_Bend	90	52	72	+2	1.39	2		9.42	-1.03	33	928	+71				
Young_America	89	57	73	+3	1.39	3		12.88	+2.54	33	1001	+80				
Northeast (3)																
Columbia_City	88	59	72	+3	1.01	5	71	11.03	+0.47	35	856	+47				
Fort_Wayne	88	58	73	+2	1.10	4		13.21	+3.40	36	953	+49				
West Central (4)																
Greencastle	89	58	74	+1	2.90	4		14.68	+3.15	32	986	-100				
Perrysville	92	56	76	+4	0.60	3	78	9.70	-1.71	31	1135	+137				
Spencer_Ag	92	61	75	+3	1.94	5		14.55	+2.42	40	1064	+68				
Terre_Haute_AFB	93	61	77	+4	1.79	3		11.40	+0.13	32	1181	+102				
W_Lafayette_6NW	91	55	74	+3	0.78	3	78	10.66	+0.00	34	1038	+110				
Central (5)																
Eagle_Creek_AP	89	62	75	+2	2.39	4		14.58	+4.03	37	1143	+75				
Greenfield	90	62	74	+2	1.90	3		16.94	+5.79	39	993	-8				
Indianapolis_AP	89	61	75	+3	1.98	4		13.52	+2.97	37	1156	+88				
Indianapolis_SE	90	60	73	+1	2.66	4		15.48	+4.69	35	970	-72				
Tipton_Ag	88	57	72	+1	3.89	3	75	14.67	+4.07	42	902	+17				
East Central (6)																
Farmland	89	59	72	+2	2.23	5	75	14.11	+3.29	42	862	+9				
New_Castle	90	60	73	+3	1.42	4		15.25	+3.49	36	919	+44				
Southwest (7)																
Evansville	92	64	78	+2	1.27	2		13.28	+1.62	33	1421	+118				
Freelandville	91	66	78	+4	0.56	2		11.44	-0.55	33	1257	+130				
Shoals	93	60	76	+4	1.79	4		16.80	+4.08	36	1202	+123				
Stendal	96	64	79	+5	1.54	3		16.17	+3.06	33	1411	+210				
Vincennes_5NE	92	64	78	+5	1.89	4	77	17.56	+5.57	41	1282	+155				
South Central (8)																
Leavenworth	92	62	76	+4	2.04	5		18.09	+5.23	43	1215	+134				
Oolitic	91	61	75	+3	0.87	2	77	13.51	+1.39	34	1049	+35				
Tell_City	92	66	78	+3	1.55	4		18.17	+5.17	37	1415	+197				
Southeast (9)																
Brookville	93	60	75	+4	0.54	3		14.22	+2.77	36	1062	+133				
Greensburg	94	63	76	+5	1.99	4		16.13	+4.29	38	1134	+137				
Scottsburg	94	61	77	+4	2.21	4		18.24	+6.51	39	1208	+88				

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

GDD = Growing Degree Days.

Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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Wheat Head Scab (Continued)

In many of the past 20 years, wheat in Indiana has been damaged by head scab (Fusarium head blight). The primary cause of head scab in the Corn Belt is Fusarium graminearum (aka Gibberella zaeae), a fungus that also causes stalk rot and ear rot of corn. Whether a corn crop has a stalk rot problem or not, Gibberella zaeae is a common invader of stalks as they mature, so there is always plenty of the fungus around to potentially infect wheat. Weather determines the occurrence of scab. Warm, humid weather during flowering and early grain filling of wheat provides the necessary conditions for production of spores by Gibberella zaeae on corn residue and infection of wheat heads by these spores.

Although recent weather has been wet, it has also been cool. Based on several years of head scab epidemiology studies, in which Purdue was a participant, a weather-based risk model was developed to help growers, grain buyers, and processors determine when and where scab will be a problem. The model is available at: <<http://www.wheatscab.psu.edu/>>

From the home page, the user can go the Risk Map Tool. Choose the type of wheat (winter or spring) and then click on the state of interest. Up until 2 days ago (15 June) the risk for Indiana was low. The model looks at weather for the 7 days prior to the day of prediction. Essentially, risk increases the more hours there are in that 7-day period when temperature is between 48 and 85° F and relative humidity is 90% or greater. Prior to the afternoon of 10 May, much of Indiana was dry. When the rains commenced, temperatures dropped and there were few hours above 48° F. The prediction of risk for wheat flowering on 16 May was somewhat

greater (medium risk) for a few counties in southeastern Indiana. The 17 May prediction shows more counties at medium risk, across southern Indiana and in the northeast. This increased risk is the result of sustained wet weather coupled with rising temperatures.

The risk assessment tool has two new features this year: the ability to look at risk 1 or 2 days forward and a commentary. For today's (17 June) model output, the area of medium risk for wheat that flowers tomorrow or Friday diminishes compared to the risk for wheat that flowers today.

In summary, there does not appear to be a high risk of head blight anywhere in our region. There is medium risk for some areas. Under these circumstances, a wheat field where there is corn residue on the soil surface or a field where a highly susceptible variety was planted may develop scab.

Wheat remains vulnerable to infection through the milk stage of grain development, and even into early dough. Although wheat may escape infection during the flowering stage, it may be infected later. Later infections may not cause as much yield loss as infections that occur at flowering, but test weights can be low and grain may contain high levels of the mycotoxin DON, which can greatly reduce grain quality. Therefore, it's important to continue to monitor the favorability of weather over the next 3 weeks.

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The INDIANA CROP & WEATHER REPORT (USPS 675-770), (ISSN 0442-817X) is issued weekly April through November by the USDA, NASS, Indiana Field Office, 1435 Win Hentschel Blvd, Suite B105, West Lafayette IN 47906-4145. Second Class postage paid at Lafayette IN. For information on subscribing, send request to above address. POSTMASTER: Send address change to the USDA, NASS, Indiana Field Office, 1435 Win Hentschel Blvd, Suite B105, West Lafayette IN 47906-4145.